

Affected Public: Individuals (billfish anglers).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 62.5.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: 0 (no capital expenditures are required).

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-4591 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020998C]

Federal Investment Task Force; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to establish a task force to study the role of the Federal Government in subsidizing fleet capacity and influencing capital investment in fisheries. The Federal Investment Task Force will hold its second meeting on March 5-7, 1998, in Tampa, FL.

DATES: The meeting of the task force will be held March 5-7, 1998 See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 5303 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609; telephone (813) 289-1950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Beal, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, (202) 289-6400; fax: (202) 289-6051; email: rbeal@asmfc.org; or Matteo Milazzo, (301) 713-2276

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

March 5, 1998, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Task Force will hear a presentation and have a discussion on the influence of U.S. Fishery policy on capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets. The Task Force will also review the Federal programs that were discussed at the previous meeting.

March 5, 1998, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Task Force will hear public input regarding the Federal Investment Study. The public is encouraged to comment on the general scope and concept of the study, as well as the effect of Federal programs on the capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets.

March 6, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Task Force will have an open discussion on the effects of various Federal programs on capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets. The Task Force will also discuss the follow-up work that was to be completed following the first meeting.

March 7, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Task Force will hear a presentation and have a discussion on the influence of Federal tax policy on capacity and capitalization of fishing fleets. The Task Force will also discuss the influence of other Federal agencies and policies on fishing capacity and fleet capitalization.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Bob Beal at (202) 289-6400 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4535 Filed 2-18-98; 4:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120996A]

Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Alaska Region of the NMFS will hold an essential fish habitat (EFH) core team meeting to discuss the following items: strategic investment framework, FY 98 spending plan, habitat criteria paper and habitat areas of particular concern, EFH habitat assessment reports, GIS maps for survey and observer data, EFH technical team recommendations, EFH research needs, EFH proposed conservation and enhancement measures, fishing and non-fishing threats, prey species, public comments on EFH habitat assessments. There will also be an evening meeting/workshop to allow for more public involvement and public comment.

DATES: The Alaska Region core EFH team will meet Monday, March 2 through March 5 or 6, 1998, in Juneau, Alaska. The public is invited to participate from 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 through noon on Wednesday, March 4, 1998. From Wednesday afternoon through Friday the core team meeting will be limited to National Marine Fisheries Service employees only. There will be an evening public workshop on Tuesday, March 3, 1998, from 7 to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The EFH core team will meet in Juneau, Alaska, at the Federal Building, 709 West 9th, room 445. The evening workshop will be March 3, 1998, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Centennial Hall Convention Center, Egan Room, 101 Egan Drive in Juneau, Alaska.

Questions should be addressed to Protected Resources Management Division, ATTN: Cindy Hartmann, 709 W. 9th, Suite 461, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; telephone: (907) 586-7585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Hartmann, NMFS, (907) 586-7585, e-mail: Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NMFS Alaska Region core EFH team was formally established in April 1997 to implement the EFH provisions

of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH provisions include the description and identification of essential fish habitat and threats to that habitat and coordination and consultation on actions that may adversely affect EFH. From 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 through noon, Wednesday, March 4, the EFH core team will review and discuss the available information and be open to public comments. From 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 4 through the end of the meeting (Thursday or Friday) only NMFS employees will continue to meet to review the best available scientific information and draft NMFS EFH recommendation(s). This meeting is open to the public only from 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 to noon Wednesday, March 4, 1998.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cindy Hartmann, (907) 586-7235, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February, 12, 1998.

James P. Burgess,

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4682 Filed 2-19-98; 4:54 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398B]

Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS is convening a meeting of the Pacific coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) technical team to review EFH descriptions for groundfish and adverse affects on groundfish EFH. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 2, 1998, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council offices, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne deReynier, 206-526-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS is in the process of developing recommendations on EFH for Pacific coast groundfish in accordance with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH recommendations to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for an amendment to the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) include a description of EFH for groundfish species managed by the FMP; a description of adverse effects to EFH including fishing and non-fishing threats; and a description of measures to ensure the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

NMFS has formed a technical team consisting of individuals from the fishing industry, environmental, state, tribal, and Federal interests and agencies to provide technical input and advice on the development of the NMFS recommendations. The first meeting of the technical team was held on January 30, 1998. The technical team will meet a second time on March 2 to review draft EFH documents as they are prepared. The meetings will be open to the public and the public will have an opportunity to comment. EFH documents will be available at the meeting.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Yvonne deReynier (206-526-6120) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 17, 1998.

James P. Burgess,

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4533 Filed 2-18-98; 4:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398D]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for modification 4 to enhancement permit 895 and notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Walla Walla, WA (Corps) has applied in due form for a modification to Permit 895 that would provide authorization for takes of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed steelhead for the purpose of enhancement. Notice is also hereby given that NMFS will conduct public hearings on the Corps' request for a modification to Permit 895 and the request from the Fish Passage Center at Portland, OR (FPC) for modification 5 to scientific research permit 822, that authorizes takes of ESA-listed species associated with the Smolt Monitoring Program. Information received at the hearings will assist NMFS in the preparation of an ESA supplemental Section 7 biological opinion.

DATES: Public hearings are scheduled for March 10, 1998; March 11, 1998; March 12, 1998; and March 17, 1998 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., or until all comments have been heard. The comment period for the permit modification application ends on March 27, 1998. Time is provided for concerned parties to respond to the testimony presented at the public hearings.

ADDRESSES: Public hearings will be held at the following locations:

March 10 - Natural Resource Center,

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID;

March 11 - Lewiston Community Center, 1424 Main Street, Lewiston, ID;

March 12 - Columbia Basin Community College, 2600 N. 20th Avenue, Pasco, WA, and;

March 17 - Federal Complex Auditorium, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR.

The permit modification application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Protected Resources Division in Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Koch, Protected Resources Division (503-230-5424).

Special Accommodations

The hearings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Lisa Hensler at (503) 230-5414 at least five days prior to the date of the respective hearing.